

REJECTION TO REDEMPTION

In Matthew 16: 13-15, Jesus asked His disciples: "Who do people say the Son of Man is?"

They replied, "Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." "But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?" Simon Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

Like many of the residents at Wayside Cross Ministries, (WCM) Thomas Kokoraleis came straight out of prison. He had no other place to go. He served 35 years of a 70-year sentence. Rejection followed him throughout his life but coming to WCM gave him hope. Because of the support from our faith based community and loyal, committed donors like you, we feel compelled to give you an update on the current status of Thomas Kokoraleis.

Since arriving at Wayside Cross Ministries on March 29th, Thomas continues to grow in his faith and is devoted to his work. He started out working in the warehouse but, due to a work injury, was moved to the kitchen. His supervisor,

David Balachowski, said that kitchen duties "are not for the faint-of-heart." He goes on to say that "a lot of the guys think working in the kitchen is too tough, but Thomas doesn't mind sweating and he never complains. His growth is noticeable in his work and work ethic; he is the hardest

working man on his shift. He takes responsibility and accountability for situations, and I look to him as my lead man on first shift. I feel he has come to be more content with where God has placed him.



WCM kitchen crew.

I know that putting his maximum effort into his job and classes can be difficult for him, but he keeps enduring the trials put in front of him. It is a pleasure working with Thomas."

Thomas recently completed Phase I of the Master's Touch

program and looks forward to the day he graduates. He is committed to doing what it takes to accomplish this. One of the requirements of being in the program is attending chapel every day. In a recent interview with Denise Crosby from the Chicago Tribune, Thomas states: "I like going to chapel, it makes me feel better...I do feel

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the grace of God.” He has struggled with memorizing Bible verses but is working on improving his memory through life skills classes. He is working on completing his GED and using a computer, for the very first time.

As part of the Master’s Touch program, each resident is matched up with a mentor. Thomas’ mentor, Frank Yonke, has significant experience in working with these broken men, and after mentoring Thomas, he is encouraged to see his desire to pray and ask God for His help. Frank explains, “At the beginning of our sessions together, Thomas has his hands extended, saying, ‘Let’s pray before we begin.’” Frank says, “I am grateful for these simple, yet profound ways Thomas includes God and the Lord Jesus Christ in His daily thinking and life.”

It is most important to note that, after spending time with WCM’s executive director, James Lukose, Thomas confessed and received the Lord Jesus as his Savior and Messiah. In Ephesians 1:7, Paul says “In Him, we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, in

accordance with the riches of God’s grace.” Thomas has felt the redeeming grace that has delivered him from guilt of his sin and freed him from the captivity he has known from his life in this world. He is now in a safe place with connections to the other WCM residents, those he calls his “brothers.” And he is most grateful for the support he has received from so many friends and donors like you – he knows that without you, his options would have been few, or maybe none, after his release from prison.

“I love this place, and they love me too.”

Thomas no longer feels rejected. He knows he is redeemed by the shed blood of Jesus Christ. And he now knows and feels the love of Jesus Christ through the hearts of the committed donors who support WCM, through the hearts of the staff at WCM, and through his relationships with the other residents at WCM. We all are so very grateful for you, our faithful donors, who have remained committed to the mission of WCM.

“Let the redeemed of the Lord tell their story – those He redeemed from the hand of His foe.”
Psalm 107:2



A TRUE PRAYER PARTNER

With the heartfelt expression of their solidarity with Wayside, the President of Pacific Garden Mission in Chicago, Pastor Phil Kwiatkowski and their key staff members came to show their support by praying for Wayside Cross.

Mission: To honor God by loving and serving the afflicted and powerless through sharing the Gospel of forgiveness and hope in Jesus Christ by empowering them to be disciples of Christ.

RADICAL TIME OUT (RTO)

RADICAL TIME OUT (RTO) is a unique weekly opportunity to enjoy a great meal, meet new friends, and learn life-changing truths from the Word of God. A time and place for renewal, support, and growth.

Individuals impacted by incarceration and those who have an interest in prison ministry, comprise the audience. Those attending cover all ages, and we often include the homeless to CEOs.

The 13th of June found eight residents and three staff members of Wayside Cross Ministries (WCM) attending an evening event at RTO in Glen Ellyn. The founder of Koinonia House National Ministries, Manny Mill, gave an inspiring message.

Staff and regular attendees of RTO encouraged and made welcome, the men from WCM. Before this, there was weekly attendance of a



few people representing Master's Touch. Since then, several men have committed to a weekly partnership, attending RTO's Thursday night meetings regularly.

Manny Mill prayed for Wayside's Master's Touch program and the residents. He also spoke on Radical Prayer at WCM's chapel service.

SUMMER OF SERVICE

It has been a remarkable year so far with volunteer groups, coming in from as far away as Texas to serve at Wayside. They completed many service projects this summer and have been such a blessing to us.

With the help of the volunteer groups we were able to tackle much-needed building and landscaping maintenance, along with some organizational projects. Volunteers painted our loading dock, organized the warehouse for our Saturday Warehouse sales, arranged our thrift shop, weeded and laid mulch in our patio area between our buildings.

Over at Lifespring they reorganized their pantry, weeded and watered their garden, and had a VBS on-site for the child residents. Thank you to all groups who have given their time this summer.



Lifespring 15th Annual Benefit Dinner

PLEASE JOIN US FOR A NIGHT OF CELEBRATION

Danada House

35501 Naperville Road
Wheaton, Illinois 60189

Thursday - September 19, 2019
Doors open at 5:30 pm

Tickets are \$100 per person.



SERVICES WE OFFER:

■ EXTERIOR QUICK WASH - \$10

Includes hand wash, tire shine, interior vacuum, and exterior windows.

■ EXTERIOR WASH & WAX - \$25

Includes hand wash, tire shine, spray wax, interior vacuum, interior/exterior windows & tire pressure check.

■ INTERIOR ONLY - \$45

Includes complete interior detailing, interior windows, vacuum, shampoo carpet and upholstery, vinyl & leather conditioner.

■ FULL SERVICE DETAIL - \$85

Includes hand wash, hand wax, wipe down engine compartment, check fluids, tire pressure check, complete interior detailing, vacuum, shampoo carpet, vinyl & leather conditioning.

-- Heavy duty cleaning add \$15

YEAR-ROUND INDOOR FACILITY



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(BEHIND THE MAIN 215 BUILDING)
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